Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A system for providing self-installing software components for network service execution, comprising:

an interface to interoperate with a network service component via a network service on a service host system;

a basic communication framework established with [[a]] the service host ~~system executing a network service software component to provide a network service;~~ system;

a checking mechanism to remotely determine availability of the network service software component on the service host system and to verify prerequisites against a runtime environment through the service host system;

a helper mechanism to execute a code bundle providing the network service software component through the service host ~~system~~ system, wherein the code bundle is logically grouped with installation instructions for the network service software component; [[and]]

a viral mechanism to provide functionality equivalent to the network service independent of the service host system and implement the network service software component in the code ~~bundle to offer functionality equivalent to the network service provided by the service host system.~~ bundle.

2. (previously presented) A system according to Claim 1, further comprising:

a set of standardized method definitions provided through a public interface defined on the network service software component.

3. (previously presented) A system according to Claim 2, wherein the standardized method definitions are selected from the group comprising at least

one of an availability method, environment verification method, code retrieval method, and an update method.

4. (original) A system according to Claim 1, wherein the network service software component is updated through the service host system.

5. (original) A system according to Claim 1, further comprising:

an installation predicate object defined on the service host system to verify that the runtime environment satisfies prerequisites necessary to install and execute the network service software component.

6. (original) A system according to Claim 5, wherein the installation predicate object is implemented in at least one of mobile code for execution within a managed code platform and in platform-specific native code.

7. (original) A system according to Claim 1, further comprising:

a helper object defined on the service host system to locate and obtain copies of one or more of the network service software components necessary to satisfy one or more of the prerequisites.

8. (original) A system according to Claim 7, wherein the helper object is implemented in at least one of mobile code for execution within a managed code platform and in platform-specific native code.

9. (original) A system according to Claim 1, further comprising:

an update object defined on the service host system to identify, retrieve and install any updates to the network service software component.

10. (original) A system according to Claim 9, wherein the update object is implemented in at least one of mobile code for execution within a managed code platform and in platform-specific native code.

11. (canceled).

12. (canceled).

13. (original) A system according to Claim 1, wherein the basic communication framework comprises a Java operating environment.

14. (currently amended) A method for providing self-installing software components for network service execution, comprising:

interoperating with a network service software component via a network service on a service host system;

establishing a basic communication framework with [[a]] the service host ~~system executing a network service software component to provide a network service;~~ system;

remotely determining availability of the network service software component on the service host system and verifying prerequisites against a runtime environment through the service host system;

executing a code bundle providing the network service software component through the service host ~~system~~ system, wherein the code bundle is logically grouped with installation instructions for the network service software component; [[and]]

providing functionality equivalent to the network service independent of the service host system; and

implementing the network service software component in the code bundle ~~to offer functionality equivalent to the network service provided by the service host system.~~ bundle.

15. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 14, further comprising:

specifying a set of standardized method definitions provided through a public interface defined on the network service software component.

16. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 15, further comprising:

defining the standardized method definitions selected from the group comprising at least one of an availability method, environment verification method, code retrieval method, and an update method.

17. (original) A method according to Claim 14, further comprising:

updating the network service software component through the service host system.

18. (original) A method according to Claim 14, further comprising:

defining an installation predicate object on the service host system to verify that the runtime environment satisfies prerequisites necessary to install and execute the network service software component.

19. (original) A method according to Claim 18, wherein the installation predicate object is implemented in at least one of mobile code for execution within a managed code platform and in platform-specific native code.

20. (original) A method according to Claim 14, further comprising:

defining a helper object on the service host system to locate and obtain copies of one or more of the network service software components necessary to satisfy one or more of the prerequisites.

21. (original) A method according to Claim 20, wherein the helper object is implemented in at least one of mobile code for execution within a managed code platform and in platform-specific native code.

22. (original) A method according to Claim 14, further comprising:

defining an update object on the service host system to identify, retrieve and install any updates to the network service software component.

23. (original) A method according to Claim 22, wherein the update object is implemented in at least one of mobile code for execution within a managed code platform and in platform-specific native code.

24. (canceled).

25. (canceled).

26. (original) A method according to Claim 14, wherein the basic communication framework comprises a Java operating environment.

27. (original) A computer-readable storage medium holding code for performing the method according to Claim 14.

28. (currently amended) An apparatus for providing self-installing software components for network service execution, comprising:

means for interoperating with a network service software component via a network service on a service host system;

means for establishing a basic communication framework with [[a]] the service host ~~system executing a network service software component to provide a network service;~~ system;

means for remotely ~~means for~~ determining availability of the network service software component on the service host system and verifying prerequisites against a runtime environment through the service host system;

means for executing a code bundle providing the network service software component through the service host ~~system~~ system, wherein the code bundle is logically grouped with installation instructions for the network service software component; [[and]]

means for providing functionality equivalent to the network service independent of the service host system; and

means for implementing the network service software component in the code bundle ~~to offer functionality equivalent to the network service provided by the service host system.~~ bundle.